

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade
November 5, 2012
www.op97.org

Important Dates

November 27-28 Outdoor Ed Trip

Dear Families,

Please sure to return the Outdoor Ed permission slip and health form as soon as possible. Our cost per attendee is \$75. Please let us know as soon as possible if you have questions or concerns about the trip or the cost.

Art - We are learning about Surrealism. We have looked at the artwork of Salvador Dali, Rene Magritte and photographer Jerry Uelsmann. Surrealism juxtaposes everyday, common things in unusual and surprising ways. We are creating surreal collage self-portraits. We began by tracing and cutting out our silhouette in profile and using old magazines and discarded encyclopedia's, we are creating a surreal collage.

Music - [Check out the website!](#) We are using recorders again in music this week. If your child cannot find theirs they may bring in 6 dollars cash or check to District 97 to purchase a new one. You may also click here to buy a [recorder online from the Holmes store](#). Please do not buy any recorder other than the ones being sold through school. If financial assistance is needed, email Mrs. Karia at akaria@op97.org. **NEW INFORMATION! If your child does not have their recorder in class they will be given a loaner recorder for the day. Please email Mrs. Karia if you want more information.**

Chorus- Chorus' first concert is at the Oak Park Arms Saturday, October 27th. Please go to the chorus website for the [lyrics to the songs we are singing as well as the permission slip](#) if you have not signed one for your child yet.

Spanish - The fifth graders have been learning about voting and the election process in Spanish class. We have watched political ads, analyzed political websites, and seen videos about the election.....todo en español. Spanish blog: <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/>

Library - We just finished booktalks for the Rebecca Caudill nominees for 2013. Take a look at <http://www.rcyrba.org/> for a list of the nominees, and get reading! Read/listen to three books to be eligible to vote in February, and to nominate a book for next year's list. Speaking of reading...READING OLYMPIANS will have a mandatory meeting this Friday, November 2 at 11:35 in the library. We will check in and see how reading is going, as the competition is on Tuesday, November 20. Please keep up with us on the library home page (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>). Feel free to email the teacher librarian, Ms. Maneck, at mmaneck@op97.org with questions.

Physical Education - Please see Mr. Williams' link (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) for information.

Reading/Literature

We started unit 3 last week and with a new unit comes a new theme! For the next few weeks, we will be reading stories that focus on our theme "Using Your Wits." These stories will have characters who use their intelligence to outwit others and get out of tricky situations. This week, we will be focusing on the comprehension skills summarizing and sequencing.

The students will be starting new literature circles this week. Instead of everyone reading the same book, students will be in groups based on books they have chosen. Just like with the Breadwinner, students will be responsible for reading an assigned amount of pages each week and filling out a role sheet. The first discussion will be on November 14.

Language Arts

This week in language arts we are working on improving voice in our writing. Voice is the writer coming through the words, the sense that a real person is speaking to us and cares about the message. It is the heart and soul of the writing. Students also will continue to revise their Memorable Moment paragraphs and publish a final draft this week. Students also are revising their science research papers in class with a focus on ideas and organization. Over the next few weeks, students will continue to edit these papers with a goal of producing a polished, quality product.

Math

Today, we began our unit on fractions. In this unit, we will focus on ordering fractions, converting between fractions and mixed numbers, and adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators. Today, we reviewed vocabulary and worked on finding fractional parts of large numbers. There will be a quiz on Friday covering ordering fractions and converting between fractions and mixed numbers.

Science

This week, we are continuing our investigation of energy in the home and at school. We are conducting an energy audit in the classroom so we can calculate the total energy used at Holmes School. This will assist us in our upcoming feasibility study, which will analyze whether our school could run on an alternative energy. Students will investigate the cost of installing the necessary equipment and the process of transferring to an alternative source.

Social Studies

Big Question: Why is it important to exercise our right to vote as United States citizens?

One Monday of this week, we will finish our lesson on the Electoral College The Background Information Page portion of this project is due this Friday, November 2nd. If students need an additional copy of this sheet, it can be found on the Social Studies page of the 5th grade wiki. The S.S. page also has links to many helpful websites centered around the presidents. The rest of the week we will study the history of voting; specifically, how certain groups of people struggled/fought for the right to vote, as well as when they received it. We will end the week with a discussion and simulation of the electoral college.

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

Ms. Kraft
fkraft@op97.org

Ms. Manuel
mmanuel@op97.org

Ms. Peterson
apeterson@op97.org

Ms. Yigzaw
svigzaw@op97.org